

W. H. H. H.
FINEDON

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

For the Year 1914,

BY

H. BURLAND, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond.

AND

- REPORT -

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector,

BY

A. E. LLOYD, Cert. R. San. I.

Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Mem. Inst. Mun. Engineers.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

FINEDON,

February, 1915.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF FINEDON.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my twentieth Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Condition of the Township.

Population.

I have calculated that there are 900 inhabitable houses in the town, and all these are at present occupied. Taking the number of inhabitants per house at the same rate as found when the Census was last taken, viz. : 4.6 per house, I estimate the population at the present time to be 4,140, an increase of 358 since 1911.

Births.

The number of births registered during the year was 91 : 54 males and 37 females, as against 83 last year, being an increase of 8, and giving a rate of 21.9 per 1000 per annum. There were 2 illegitimate births registered.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered as occurring in the township during the year was 37, giving a rate of 8.9 per 1000 per annum. Four deaths of residents took place in Public Institutions outside the town, making the total number of deaths for the year 41, and giving a rate of 9.9 per 1000 per annum. These reduced rates are very satisfactory.

Deaths of Infants.

Eleven deaths of children under one year of age were registered, giving a rate of 120.8 per 1000 births registered. This is a slight increase on the rate of last year. One was that of an illegitimate child.

Cancer Death Rate.

Two deaths were registered as being caused by cancer, giving a rate of .4 per 1000 per annum. A satisfactory rate.

Phthisis Death-Rate.

Phthisis caused two deaths, giving a rate of .4 per 1000 per annum. A satisfactory rate.

Respiratory Diseases other than Phthisis

Caused 4 deaths, giving a rate of 1.9 per 1000 per annum.

Zymotic Disease.

Eight deaths were attributed to zymotic disease, viz.: seven to diphtheria and one to scarlet fever, giving a rate of 1.9 per 1000 per annum. This is a very low rate when one considers that 62 cases of infectious disease were notified during the year.

The ages at which the deaths occurred were as follows :—

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Under one year, 11. | One and under two years, 0. | Two and under five years, 6. |
| Five and under fifteen years, 4. | Fifteen and under twenty-five years, 1. | Twenty-five and under forty-five years, 3. |
| Forty-five and under sixty-five years, 6. | | Sixty-five years and upwards, 10. |

The Public Health.

The health of the adult population during the year has on the whole been satisfactory, though there was in the later months of the year an increase of sickness due to influenza (fortunately of a milder type than of late years), and to the fact that overtime in the factories was necessary. The working of overtime tends to lower the vitality of the workman, which in the shoe trade is never at too high a level.

The health of the children has not been satisfactory during the year. Sixty-two cases of notifiable disease having been reported, viz. : diphtheria, 41 ; scarlet fever, 16 ; enteric fever, 1 ; erysipelas, 3 ; membranous croup, 1. This is the largest number reported for any one year for the past ten years.

Diphtheria.

Diphtheria broke out in February, but did not become epidemic until August. As most of the earlier cases were amongst infants, I ordered the closing of the Infants' Schools for a month. This certainly had a good effect, as the disease ceased to spread in these departments, but continued to spread amongst the older children. Seven deaths resulted from the disease. Ante-diphtheric serum supplied by your Council was used in the majority of cases, and where the patient came under treatment in the early stages, proved of the greatest possible value, and undoubtedly saved many lives.

The disease has been very prevalent throughout the County during the year.

In our own District there has been great difficulty in staying the spread of the disease, owing to the fact that some of the cases were so mild that they were passed over as being cases of ordinary sore throat, and no medical man being called in, and the children allowed to return to school whilst capable of spreading the infection, and also to the fact that owing to the dread of a visit from the School Attendance Officer many children were sent to school whilst actually suffering from the disease.

I am glad to be able to report a decided decrease in the number of cases notified to me since the year ended.

It may interest your Council to know that, with the exception of the two cases reported in the autumn of last year, and which occurred in the van of a travelling hawker, no cases of diphtheria had previously been reported since the formation of the Council.

Scarlet Fever.

Cases of scarlet fever kept cropping up during the year. At no time did the disease become epidemic. One case proved fatal.

Enteric Fever.

One case of enteric fever was reported, for which no cause could be found.

Erysipelas.

Three cases of erysipelas were reported, the cause being in each case want of proper flushing of house drains.

Membranous
Croup.

One case of membranous croup was reported, which was probably diphtheric in origin, as I received a notification of a case of diphtheria in the same house a few days afterwards.

Phthisis.

No case of pulmonary tuberculosis, or any other form of tuberculosis, has been reported to me during the year. This fact must be considered most satisfactory.

Factory and
Workshops' Act.

The factories, workshops and outworkers' premises have been inspected during the year, and it has not been found necessary to make any reports to H.M. Inspector, or to take legal steps to enforce the provisions of the Act.

Housing and
Town-planning
Act.

Forty-seven houses have been inspected during the year, details of such inspections will be found in your Sanitary Inspector's report.

There are a few blocks of old property in the town, which, if the owners are not willing to spend money on and to put into a thoroughly clean and sanitary condition, I shall ask the Council to take the necessary steps to close. The properties I refer to are as follows: two houses in Eady's Yard, off Well Street; Birdcage Row, Peartree Row and Johnson's Yard, all in High Street.

I have sympathy with property owners because there is a certain class of tenant capable of ruining any property they are allowed to get into, and there are unfortunately a few of them in the town. No new houses have been built during the year.

Water Supply.

The water supply has been good and ample.

During the year mains have been laid up Albert Road, and several new connections made.

The water of three wells was examined, and in each case found to be of good quality.

There was a slight increase in the consumption of water, the amount was 8 gallons per head compared with 7.74 last year.

Scavenging.

I received no complaints as to the way this work has been done. The receptacles for rubbish still leave much to be desired, though there has been some improvement in that direction.

A more frequent cleaning-up of bottles, tins, etc., is desirable.

Milk Supply.

The milk supply has been satisfactory. One conviction was obtained against a dealer during the year.

The sewers have worked well during the year. Complaints about the ventilating shafts led to a thorough inspection of the same, and the carrying out of a scheme to prevent blocking in the future.

The County Medical Officer has found fault with the effluent from the Sewage Farm, and has asked for considerable alterations to improve the same.

I am glad your Council is seriously considering the same. Nothing short of proper filtering tanks will satisfy the County Authority.

The slaughter-houses, bakehouses, cowsheds, and drains have been regularly inspected.

I have had one case of questionable meat brought to my notice. The meat was not exposed for sale, and on the promise of the owner to destroy same, and by the advice of the veterinary expert called in, no further steps were taken in the matter.

The Nuisance Inspector has done valuable work during the year, with tact.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. BURLAND, M. O. H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

TOWN HALL,

FINEDON,

22nd February, 1915.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF FINEDON.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my second Annual Report of the Sanitary condition of the Urban District of Finedon, and of the work executed under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1875, and other Acts, for the year ending the 31st of December, 1914.

Complaints.

In all, 37 complaints were received and promptly attended to during the past year, and where nuisances were found to exist, notices were served to abate same.

House Refuse.

460 loads of house refuse have been removed during the year, giving an average of about 9 loads per week, as compared with 420 loads at an average of 8 loads per week the previous year.

The work of refuse removal would be greatly facilitated if occupiers would burn all the refuse possible. It would be a simple matter to burn the greater proportion of the kitchen refuse, such as animal and vegetable waste matter, old papers, etc., instead of placing it all in the refuse receptacles. Another point which calls for remark in this connection is the habit of throwing away partly-consumed coal

and cinders. A large amount of the refuse carted away could be profitably consumed by the householders.

The work of providing the houses with suitable receptacles is progressing in a very satisfactory manner, but a great deal of attention will still have to be given in this direction during the ensuing year. During the year 49 houses have been supplied with proper galvanised sanitary dustbins, in lieu of cardboard boxes, tin pails, wooden boxes, and other undesirable and insanitary receptacles.

Whilst the bins are a decided improvement on the wooden receptacles, they soon become foul unless the tenant does his duty and keeps the receptacle in a proper condition.

It has been found necessary to draw the tenants' attention to the fact in many instances, owing to the insanitary state the receptacles have been allowed to get in.

Bakehouses.

There are six bakehouses on the register, and they are regularly inspected. It has been necessary on a few occasions to draw attention to the necessity for limewashing, when the same has received prompt attention.

There are no underground bakehouses in the district in use within the meaning of the Act.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no common lodging houses registered as such in the district.

Sewers and Ventilating Shafts.

During the year the sewers throughout the town have been periodically inspected and flushed, and are in a satisfactory condition. It was found necessary to relay the sewer up the Albert Road. The ventilating shafts have all been cleaned out, and an inspection chamber has been provided at the bottom of each one, so that all rust, scale, etc., can be removed periodically.

Slaughter Houses.

There are six slaughter houses on the register. They are kept in good condition as regards cleanliness, and the limewashing of the premises has been regularly carried out. In one case a new floor has been laid down, owing to the existing one being found very defective.

Factory and
Workshops' Act.

During the year the premises coming under these Acts have been inspected, and found to be in good condition generally as regards cleanliness, but a proper system of flushing is needed in many cases, as I have mentioned in my remarks on house drainage.

Dairies, Cowsheds
and Milkshops.

There are 14 names on the register carrying on the trade of Cowkeepers, Dairymen, or Purveyors of Milk, 12 being Cowkeepers and Dairymen, and 2 Purveyors of Milk.

The cowsheds are for the most part in good condition structurally, and are kept in good condition as regards cleanliness. It was found necessary on a few occasions to draw the occupiers' attention to the need for limewashing, also for the removal of large accumulations of manure, which was duly complied with.

The drainage of cowsheds and cowyards is receiving my careful attention, and I am at the present time in communication with two persons respecting the drainage of their farmyards and premises.

With reference to the cows, they are not inspected quarterly by a Veterinary Surgeon, as in other districts.

Petroleum Acts.

The stores are kept in conformity with the regulations in force in the district, and are periodically inspected.

No new licences have been granted during the year.

Public Schools.

The public Elementary Schools have been inspected, special attention having been given to the sanitary conveniences and outhouses. In each case the premises were found to be kept in a good condition as regards cleanliness.

House Drainage.

A good deal of attention and time has been given to the condition of house drains and sanitary fittings, and in 17 cases the drains have been repaired or relaid. This work being so very important, a considerable amount of time therefore is taken up, as numerous visits are made in each case whilst the work is in progress.

All new drains laid or repaired are tested with water before being covered up, and all existing drains, soil pipes, and ventilating shafts that are repaired or renewed tested with the smoke machine.

Another point which I should like to draw your attention to is the very small number of w.c.'s in the town provided with a proper system of flushing, and I trust that during the ensuing year you will give this very important matter your consideration, as the present method of flushing is far from satisfactory.

Another point I should like to mention is that I have recently found a few cases where the w.c.'s have not yet been connected to the public sewer, pails being still used. This matter is at the present time receiving my attention. In two cases pails have been abolished, and water closets put in, with a proper system of flushing, during the year.

Written and Verbal Notices.

During the year the number of written notices served on owners or occupiers for the abatement of nuisances was 114, whilst 27 letters were written in respect of nuisances, and 29 verbal notices given.

Each notice sets forth fully in detail the work required to be done to abate the nuisances existing.

I may mention that wherever possible verbal notices are given and every required explanation made, thus saving a good deal of trouble and delay.

In only two cases was it found necessary to issue statutory notices upon your instructions, otherwise the complaints generally were rectified without causing any friction.

Water Supply.

The Water Supply is excellent in quality and abundant in quantity in the town.

During the year I have taken three samples of water from various wells, and submitted same to your Medical Officer for analysis. In each case the water was found to be satisfactory.

There are still a large number of wells used for drinking and domestic purposes at the present time, but in view of the serious risk of surface pollution,

owing to their unsatisfactory construction, etc., it would be more conducive to public health if nothing but town water were used.

I am indebted to your Surveyor (Mr. G. F. Bearn) for the following particulars :—

The average daily consumption of water was about 8 gallons per head of the population.

This is rather a low average taking into consideration the quantity used in manufacturing processes, and is probably due to the fact that so few of the houses are fitted with baths, etc.

During the year 13 new supplies from the water mains, etc., for drinking purposes, also six extensions of services have been completed.

In addition to the above, a water main has been laid up Albert Road during the year, and instructions have been given for a main to be laid up the Stores Field, and also up road adjoining Mr. Tite's property.

Housing and
Town Planning
Act, 1909.

During the year a considerable amount of time has been devoted to this very important matter, and some 47 inspections have been made with a view to ascertaining that the houses are kept in such a condition as to be reasonably fit for habitation.

The general character of the defects were houses dirty, dilapidated and unsafe, plaster off walls and ceilings, defective floors, damp walls, no through ventilation, defective windows, chimneys, etc., etc., particulars of which may be found on page 13.

I propose devoting as much time as possible during the ensuing year to this particular work, as some of the property is in a very bad state.

Infectious
Diseases.

A total of 62 cases of Infectious Disease have been notified during the year. These have all been kept under observation, and disinfectants supplied to infected houses, the premises afterwards being fumigated when certified to be free by the Medical Officer.

All the Schools were also fumigated after each holiday.

Outworkers.

Where outworkers are employed in certain trades mentioned in the Factory and Workshops Act, lists of such outworkers have been kept on the prescribed form, copies of which were sent to the Sanitary Department. The dwellings of the outworkers have been inspected, and in some instances it was found necessary to warn the occupiers about the insanitary condition of the premises.

In one case a notification was received of a case of scarlet fever in an outworker's house. The usual precautions were therefore taken, and the home-work stopped by order of the Medical Officer, until a certain time had elapsed after fumigation.

**Public Urinals
and w.c.'s.**

These are regularly inspected. Those attached to the various public houses, etc., are kept in a very fair condition. It has been necessary on a few occasions to draw attention to the necessity for limewashing, etc., when the same has received prompt attention.

During the year the town water has been laid on to the sanitary convenience at the Prince of Wales and Royal Oak public houses.

In conclusion, I should like to express my thanks to the members of the Sanitary Committee and the Council for the support they have always given to me, also to the Medical Officer and Surveyor for their valuable assistance.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

A. E. LLOYD,

Certified Inspector of Nuisances.

Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Assoc. Mem. Royal Sanitary Institute.

Member Institute of Municipal Engineers.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

| <i>Number of Dwelling Houses inspected under and for the purpose of Section 17 of the Act, 1909.</i> | <i>Number of Dwelling Houses which on inspection were found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.</i> | <i>Number of Representations made to the District Council with a view to the making of Closing Orders.</i> | <i>Number of Closing Orders made</i> | <i>Number of Dwelling Houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders.</i> | <i>Number of Dwelling Houses which after the Closing Orders were put into a fit state for human habitation.</i> |
|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| 47 | 36 | 11 | Nil. | 25 11 under repair present time. | Nil. |

GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DEFECTS.

Houses dirty, dilapidated and unsafe, plaster off walls and ceilings, defective floors, damp walls, no through ventilation, defective windows, defective chimneys, smoke nuisances, etc., etc.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES,
WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

| 1. INSPECTION. | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------------------|---|
| PREMISES. | | | | | <i>Number of Inspections.</i> | <i>Number of Written Notices.</i> |
| Factories | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 | 1 |
| Workshops | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19 | 4 |
| Workplaces | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26 | 4 |
| Homeworkers' Premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | 69 | 6 |
| Total | | | | | 135 | 15 |

| 2. DEFECTS FOUND. | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|----|
| PARTICULARS. | | | | | <i>Number of Defects Found. Remedied.</i> | |
| Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—* | | | | | | |
| Want of Cleanliness | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 6 |
| Overcrowding | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| † Sanitary Accommodation— | | | | | | |
| Insufficient | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Unsuitable or defective | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 |
| Not separate for Sexes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Total | | | | | 11 | 11 |

* Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7, and 8 of the Factory Act as remediable under the Public Health Act.

† Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, has been adopted by the District Council. Standard of sufficiency and suitability of sanitary accommodation for persons employed in factories and workshops adopted is that recommended by the Home Secretary in the Home Office Order of 4th February, 1903, namely, one w.c. for every 25 workers, with certain exceptions.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE OR IN HAND
DURING THE YEAR 1914.

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|----|
| Houses or rooms cleansed and lime-washed | ... | ... | 26 |
| Internal walls pointed and repaired | ... | ... | 7 |
| Eaves gutters and spoutings provided or repaired | ... | 17 | |
| Defective roofs repaired... | ... | ... | 27 |
| Defective ceilings repaired | ... | ... | 6 |
| Defective windows repaired or new ones provided | ... | 5 | |
| Defects in sanitary fittings | ... | ... | 17 |
| Floors of living rooms repaired | ... | ... | 3 |
| Dangerous and defective stairs repaired or renewed | ... | 1 | |
| Chimney stacks repaired... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Outhouses cleansed, repaired or re-built | ... | ... | 18 |
| Bedroom floors repaired | ... | ... | 1 |
| Yard paving repaired or renewed | ... | ... | 16 |
| Defective flues and coppers repaired... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Defective drains repaired or re-laid | ... | ... | 17 |
| W.C. apartments lighted and ventilated | ... | ... | 1 |
| Notice to tenants to cleanse houses | ... | ... | 4 |
| Inside walls repairs | ... | ... | 11 |
| Foul rain-water tanks cleansed and covered | ... | ... | 1 |
| Foul quarry sinks re-placed by glazed stoneware sinks... | | 2 | |
| Sink waste pipes repaired | ... | ... | 5 |
| Sub-floor ventilation provided | ... | ... | 5 |
| Old drains ventilated | ... | ... | 2 |
| Samples of water analysed (well-water) | ... | ... | 3 |
| Rain-water pipes disconnected from drains... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Additional inspection chambers provided to existing drains | ... | ... | 3 |

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|
| New covers provided to inspection chambers | ... | ... | 3 |
| Fresh air inlets provided or repaired | ... | ... | 3 |
| Choked ventilating shafts opened, cleared and repaired | | | 12 |
| Overcrowded rooms discovered... | ... | .. | 5 |
| Backways made up and repaired | ... | ... | 2 |
| Infectious disease occurring in out-workers' premises | ... | | 1 |
| Houses cleansed and whitewashed after infectious disease | | | 62 |
| Complaints investigated | ... | ... | 37 |
| Common yards and premises inspected | ... | ... | 128 |
| Written letters and notices sent respecting abatement of nuisances, etc. | ... | ... | 166 |
| Houses and rooms sprayed and fumigated after infectious diseases | ... | ... | 62 |
| Consumptive homes sprayed and fumigated | ... | ... | 2 |
| Visits made in connection with infectious diseases | | | 186 |
| No. of houses inspected :— | | | |
| (a) As a result of complaint | ... | ... | 37 |
| (b) „ infectious diseases | ... | .. | 62 |
| (c) „ consumptive homes | ... | ... | 0 |
| (d) As part of inspection under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909 | ... | ... | 47 |
| (e) Inspections made in respect of factories, work- shops, workplaces and outworkers | ... | ... | 135 |
| Periodically inspected :— | | | |
| Licensed and registered slaughter-houses | ... | ... | 6 |
| Knacker's yard | ... | ... | 0 |
| Offensive trades | ... | ... | 0 |
| Bakehouses | ... | ... | 6 |
| Registered milkshops, dairies and cowsheds | ... | ... | 14 |